

**FY 2000 Subsistence Fisheries Project Narrative
Project #33**

Project Title: Angler Effort Index for the Alagnak River

Investigator Organizations: ADF&G Commercial Fisheries, Bristol Bay Native Association, Village of Levelock, Katmai National Preserve

Geographic Area: Bristol Bay/AP/Kodiak

Information type: Harvest Monitoring

Issue Addressed: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game monitors the sport fishery on the Alagnak River through their statewide mail-in sport fish survey. They also conduct creel surveys of chinook and coho fishing on some parts of the river on a cyclical basis; their next effort is scheduled for 2001. Both increases in use of the Alagnak River over the last 20 years and the size of the river make on-site creel survey design challenging. An index of the effort, location, and seasonal distribution of sport angling on the river would aid in the design and implementation of improved data-gathering for on-site creel surveys. This sport fishing effort index would also provide the National Park Service with data on river use for purposes river corridor planning and valuable data on sport fishing effort as it relates to the maintenance of subsistence harvest opportunities.

Study Objectives:

1. To describe areas and seasons of greatest fishing intensity on the Alagnak River.
2. To provide recommendations to improve design of intensive creel and effort surveys on this river.

Project Description: The Village of Levelock patrols the river sporadically throughout the summer, primarily to protect Native allotments from trespass. River patrols will be adapted to provide an opportunity for data collection on the sport anglers throughout the river corridor. Two citizens of the Village of Levelock will travel up the Alagnak River three times per week by jet boat to the confluence of the Alagnak and the Nonvianuk Rivers. For each party encountered they will record the date, time, river reach (location), whether the party is associated with motorized or non-motorized boats, and the number of anglers in the party. Detailed sampling protocols will be developed with technical review by ADFG, BBNA, and NPS. Data will be provided to BBNA, NPS and ADFG during the summer, and summarized and analyzed during the winter by an NPS seasonal employee. The analysis will focus on patterns of seasonal distribution of angler effort in the different reaches of the river. The overall angler effort indicated will provide data that can be compared with the overall number of angler days indicated by the statewide mail-in harvest survey conducted by ADFG. In the development of a summer operational plan, NPS, ADFG, BBNA and Levelock will all have opportunity to ensure that the study plan and protocols developed are satisfactory. Primary coordination and training of employees in the field will be done by NPS employees, with some assistance from ADFG, and periodic consultations on the river throughout the summer will provide management oversight of the data gathering effort.

Consultation Completed/Potential for Capacity Building: This proposal is a joint proposal among ADFG, BBNA, and NPS, and is widely supported by neighboring communities, villages, and other groups with a vested interest in the project. Letters of support are available from the agencies indicated as co-sponsors of the project. A resolution of support has been adopted by the Village of Levelock, and letters are pending from other interested organizations. This project will facilitate interagency cooperation, provide each partner with data necessary to successfully manage their programs, result in training for village staff conducted by BBNA and supervised by NPS and ADFG, and provide important data to aid in the design of more intensive creel and effort data collection.

Deliverables/Products: Alagnak angler distribution and effort data will be summarized in a report by NPS. The results of this study will be important for long-term planning of the ADFG creel surveys on the Alagnak and for the ongoing Alagnak river corridor planning effort.

Cost:

Annual Budget Summary	BBNA	ADF&G	NPS	Total
FY 2000	\$20.0 K	\$9.5 K	\$11.2 K	\$40.7 K